Cooperative societies are exempted from the above ceilings.

Security arrangements in North-Eastern Region

*139. PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to tighten the security arrangements in North-Eastern Region to bring under control the mounting insurgency in that region; and

(b) if so, whether any decision has been taken in the matter keeping in view the ever deteriorating situation in the North-Eastern Region ?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. B. CHAVAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The situation in the North-Eastern Region is kept under constant watch and is reviewed from time to time. A series of measures have been taken under the policy of the Governm nt to deal firmly with those indulging in secessionist and terrorist activities while simultaneously continuing efforts to encourage them to join the mainstream of national life provided they abjure violence and agree to work within the Constitution of India. Besides review of the situation from time to time at various levels, a series of measures have been taken which, inter-alia, include the declaration of the most seriously affected areas as "disturbed areas", notification of certain militant groups as "unlawful associations", deployment of additional units of the Army and the Central Para Military Forces, financial assistance to the North Eastern States for modernisation and upgradation of State Police Forces, raising of India Reserve Battalions and better sharing of information and coordination of counter-insurgency operations. Simultaneously, steps continue to be taken for economic development, particularly with a view to improving the basic infrastructure in the region.

National debate on TADA

*140. DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR:

SHRI SURINDER KUMAR SINGLA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) by when legislative changes are to be brought about, amending TADA;

(b) whether Government intend to promote a national debate on this issue; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. B. CHAVAN); (a) to (c) All aspects of the matter including the issues arising out of the Supreme Court judgement on TADA, are under examination of the Government.

Telephone connections in Shahadara Exchange from MPs quota

1223. SHRI CHIMANBHAI HARIBHAI SHUKLA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number and the details of telephone connections allotted in Shahadara telephone exchange from 1st January, 1994, till date, from the MPs out-of-turn priority quota;

(b) whether it is a fact that some of the connections which were already sanctioned to the respective C.G.Ms. have not been installed so far;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the measures taken or proposed to be taken to install the telephone connections sanctioned under the MP's quota?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) Sir, a total of 36 telephone connections were allotted in Shahadara Telephone Exchange. Details are given in Annexure. (*See* Appendix 173, Annexure No. 31]

(b) No, Sir. Only one OB No. 112288233 dated 14-3-94 was returned without compliance on subscriber request.

(c) and (d) Does not arise in view of the reply to (b) above

PCOs in Delhi

1224. SHRI INDER KUMAR GUJRAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of PCOs functioning in Delhi at present;

(b) what is the criteria followed for installation of PCOs:

(c) what are the reasons that sufficient PCOs are not installed on the roadsides in the capital region;

(d) whether it is a fact that some of the PCOs, particularly outside Delhi Gate Telephone Exchange, are locktd at night thus, preventing the telephone users from making telephone calls in emergency; and

(e) what steps Government are contemplating to ensure availability of sufficient PCOs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): There are 2538 STD/ISD, PCOs and 17798 LOCAL PCOs working in Delhi as on 31-1-95.

(b) The criteria followed for sanction/installation of STD/ISD, PCOs. Local PCOs is at Statement (*See* below).

(c) Highways and other important roads falling within the jurisdiction of MTNL, Delhi are reasonably covered by network of payphones.

(d) No, Sir. However franchised PCOs have their specific hours of working beyond which they remain closed.

(e) Though Delhi has already achieved the 8th plan target of having 1 PCO for every 500 persons, provision of additional PCOs is a major thrust area. The number of PCOs planned for 1994-95 is 3000.

Statement

CRITERIA FOR SANCTION/INSTALLATION OF STD/PCOs

1. *Eligibility*

Only educated unemployed persons are eligible to apply for allotment of STD PCOs. They should produce an unemployment certificate from their local MPs/MLAs/Revenue authorities of the rank of Tehsildar and above/employment officer/Chairman or Member of Zila Parishad/Municipal Councillor/Panchayat of Village Pradhan or Secretaries of recognised Social Organisations like Rotary Club/Lions Club etc. who have jurisdiction over the locality where the applicant resides. The educational qualifications for the applicants are:—

(i) *for rural areas:* 8th or middle school pass and above.

(ii) *for urban areas:* atleast matriculate or High School and above.

Application is to be submitted in the prescribed performa enclosing the unemployment certificate and agreeing to the terms and conditions prescribed by the Department of Telecom for the operation of STD. PCOs.

2. *Selection of bonafide persons*:

A committee with a composition as given below will select the applicants